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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/564,231	03/06/2006	Hideaki Watanabe	6404-0005WOUS	7544

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EXAMINER	
REESE, ROBERT T	

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
3657	

MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
11/14/2008	PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/564,231	WATANABE ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	ROBERT T. REESE	3657	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE *3* MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on *01 January 2006*.

2a)☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b)☒ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) *1-8* is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☒ Claim(s) *3-8* is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) *1 and 2* is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☒ The drawing(s) filed on *10 January 2006* is/are: a)☒ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a)☒ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date *See Continuation Sheet*.
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ .
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6) ☐ Other: _____.

Continuation of Attachment(s) 3). Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08), Paper No(s)/Mail Date :01/01/2006, 05/18/2006, 08/09/2006.

DETAILED ACTION

This communication is a first Office Action Non-Final rejection on the merits. Claims 1-8, as originally filed, are currently pending and considered below.

Priority

1. Receipt is acknowledged of papers submitted under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d), which papers have been placed of record in the file.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

> A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –
>
> (b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

3. Claims 1 and 2 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Allport (GB 2,374,654).

As per claim 1, Allport discloses: an isolation damper pulley (1) attached to a crankshaft (page 1, paragraph 2) of an engine, comprising: a damper unit (2) including a hub (5) having a mounting hole (13) to said crankshaft and an annular mass body (16) attached to an outside cylindrical portion (7) provided to said hub via a first elastic member (19); a pulley unit (3) including a cylindrical portion (14), in an outer circumferential portion of which a pulley groove (15) is formed and that is disposed outside said annular mass body (as depicted in Figure 2), and a cover portion (depicted in Figure 2 where element 3 is indicated) extending from one axial-directional end of said cylindrical portion in a central direction; a second elastic member (23)

whose one end is fixed to a side of said damper unit (2), whose other end is fixed to a side of said pulley unit (3), and to which a pre-compression is applied axially (This pre-compression would be an inherent result of the position of the damper unit, the second elastic member, and the cover); and a pressing unit (4) pressing axially said pulley unit and applying an axial-directional pre-compression to said second elastic member, wherein a fixing position of said pressing unit is capable of being adjusted axially (It is construed that this adjustment is made by varying the lengths of the studs (31 and 32) and the sleeves (28)).

As per claim 2, Allport discloses: an isolation damper pulley (1) attached to a crankshaft (page 1, paragraph 2) of an engine, comprising: a damper unit (2) including a hub (5) having a mounting hole (13) to said crankshaft, a first fitting portion (6) provided to said hub so as to be concentric with the center axis of said mounting hole, and an annular mass body (16) attached to an outside cylindrical portion (7) provided to said hub via a first elastic member (19); a pulley unit (3) including a cylindrical portion (14), in an outer circumferential portion of which a pulley groove (15) is formed and that is disposed outside said annular mass body (as depicted in Figure 2), and a cover portion (depicted in Figure 2 where element 3 is indicated) extending from one axial-directional end of said cylindrical portion in a central direction; a second elastic member (23) whose one end is fixed to a side of said damper unit (2), whose other end is fixed to a side of said pulley unit (3), and to which a pre-compression is applied axially; and a pressing unit (4) having a third fitting portion (8) so as to be concentric with said center axis, pressing axially said pulley unit and applying an axial-directional pre-compression

to said second elastic member (This pre-compression would be an inherent result of the position of the fitting member, the second elastic member, and the cover), wherein said third fitting portion is axially press-inserted into said first fitting portion so as to be fitted coaxially (depicted in Figure 2), and said first fitting portion has an adjustment margin capable of adjusting axially a fitting position of said third fitting portion (depicted in Figure 2, and determined by axial location on the first fitting portion that the third fitting portion is fitted).

Allowable Subject Matter

4. Claims 3-8 are allowed.

5. The closest prior art, Allport (GB 2,374,654) discloses a Torsional Vibration Damper. The vibration damper includes what is disclosed in the 35 USC 102(b) rejections for claims 1 and 2 above, but does not include a second fitting portion concentric with said center axis and supporting the other axial end of the second elastic member, this second fitting portion axially press inserted into the third fitting portion as required by claim 3, or the second fitting portion press inserted into the first fitting portion as required by claim 6. Riu (WO2004/007992) discloses an Integrated Pulley-Torsional Damper Assembly. The pulley-torsional damper assembly does include damper and pulley units with two elastic elements, an annular mass, and a first fitting portion concentric with the center axis, but does not include the second and third fitting portions concentric with the center axis as claimed.

Conclusion

6. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Riu (5,988,015) discloses Drive Devices. Moriya et al. (2006/0264282) discloses a Torque Fluctuation Damper Pulley. Nomura (JP 2005/299909) discloses an Isolation Pulley. Kakinuma (2005/133917) discloses an Isolation Pulley. Kinoshita et al. (2004/108528) discloses a Torque Fluctuation Absorption Damper. Ulrich et al. (JP 08/177874) discloses a Torsion Elastic Joint Integrally Formed with a Torsional Vibration Damper.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to ROBERT T. REESE whose telephone number is (571) 270-5794. The examiner can normally be reached on M_F 7:30-5.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Robert A. Siconolfi can be reached on (571) 272-7124. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

RTR

/Robert A. Siconolfi/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 3657